

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2, with the following rewritten title:

STRETCHABLE TRANSFER CONVEYOR, [[AND]] METHOD OF
[[STRETCHIGN]] STRETCHING TRANSFER CONVEYOR, AND STRETCHABLE
GUIDE DEVICE FOR MOVEABLE ARTICLE

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Heretofore, there has been known a transfer conveyer in which a pair of guide rails respectively provided with guide surfaces for guiding both side surfaces of a transferred article in a transfer direction are extended in the transfer direction and in which plural pulleys are provided for circulatably supporting endless belts, which support both side lower surfaces of the transferred article, to transfer the same in the transfer direction. In an electronic component mounding apparatus or the like with such a transfer conveyer, since plural transfer conveyers are juxtaposed with the space between two adjoining transfer conveyers being set to several millimeters, care must be taken so that apparatus are not brought into contact or collision with each other when installed or displaced for new building, the layout change or the like of the facilities, and this results in making the work troublesome and ~~take~~ taking a long time. Another conveyer has also been known, in which in order to solve this problem, end portions of the guide rails are made stretchable to be adapted easily for the displacement of the apparatus. For example, Japanese unexamined, published patent application 2000-142944 describes a stretchable transfer conveyer, in which a channeled portion is formed at an end portion of each of guide rails while another channeled portion complementarily insertable therinto is formed at a mating end portion of each of adjuster guide rails and in which each adjuster guide rail is joined with the end portion of each guide rail to be

positionally adjustable within an area in which both of the channeled portions are fitted in each other, so that protrusion portions of either one of the channeled portions insertable mutually exist to function as guides for guiding the either side of the transferred article.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With this construction, when the adjuster member mounted on the end portion of each guide rail is adjusted with respect to its position in the transfer direction, the complementary member is inserted into the space made between the guide surface of each guide rail and the adjuster guide surface of the adjuster member, whereby the complementary guide surface formed on the complementary member and the adjuster guide surface form the stretchable guide surface which is a flat surface continuous and even with the[[,]] guide surface. Thus, in addition to the aforementioned effects of the invention in the first aspect, it is possible to provide the stretchable transfer conveyer simplified in construction and low in cost.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the present invention in a fifth aspect, in the stretchable transfer conveyer improved ~~fourth~~ as aforementioned in the fourth aspect, the complementary direction is a vertical direction perpendicular to the transfer direction; the adjuster member and the complementary member are joined at the joint surfaces which are inclined 45 degrees relative to the transfer direction; the adjuster guide surface and the complementary guide surface are joined along the joint surfaces to constitute the stretchable guide surface; the adjuster member has mounted thereon the first rotational member for winding therearound one end of the horizontally traveling portion of the endless belt and the second rotational

member for downwardly bending the endless belt run out horizontally from the first rotational member; the complementary member has mounted thereon the third rotational member for horizontally bending the endless belt run out from the second rotational member and the fourth rotational member for roughly vertically bending the endless belt bent horizontally; the guide rail has mounted thereon the fifth rotational member for horizontally bending the endless belt run out from the fourth rotational member; and the third rotational member is moved as being restrained by a guide vertically provided on the adjuster member and another guide horizontally provided on the complementary member.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 is a perspective view showing a stretchable transfer conveyer in a first embodiment according to the present invention; Figure 2 is an enlarged perspective view showing the ~~neighborhood~~ environment of a stretching mechanism; Figure 3 is a perspective view showing the stretching mechanism in a stretched state; Figure 4 is a view showing a tension pulley; Figure 5 is a view showing a second embodiment; and Figure 6 is a view showing a stretching mechanism in the second embodiment in a stretched state.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A stepped portion 20 at an end of the thin depth portion 12 is formed perpendicularly to the guide surface 4 to extend in the vertical direction, and a slot 21 is formed at the stepped portion 20 to extend in the vertical direction. The slot 21 has fitted therein a protrusion 23 of a complementary member 22, and the complementary member 22 is movable in the vertical direction coinciding with a complementary direction. A joint surface 24 inclined 45 degrees

relative to the horizontal direction and the vertical direction is formed on the complementary member 22 to face upward, and a protrusion 25 is protruded from the joint surface 24 to fit in the slot 17. The complementary member 22 is provided with a complementary guide surface 26 which is a flat surface even with the guide surface 4. Thus, when the adjuster member 14 is moved horizontally, the complementary member 22 is moved in the vertical direction by being guided through the fitting engagement of the slot 21 with the protrusion 23 as the adjuster member 14 and the complementary member 22 are guided through the fitting engagement of the slot 17 with the protrusion 25 to keep the contact at the joint surfaces 16 and 24. As a result, the complementary guide surface 26 of the complementary member 22 is inserted into a clearance made between the guide surface 4 of the guide rail 2a and the adjuster guide surface 18 of the adjuster member 14, and the adjuster guide surface 18 and the complementary guide surface 26 are kept ~~to join~~ joined with each other along the joint line between the joint surfaces 16 and 24, whereby a stretchable guide surface 27 is formed to be a flat surface continuous and even with the guide surface 4.